IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-17, 19-21, 23-25, 27-29, 31-33, 25-37, 39-41, 43-45, 47-49, 51-53, 55-57, 59-63, and 65-69, without a prejudice or disclaimer.

AMEND the claims and ADD new claims in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   An image data dispensing system comprising:

an image obtaining apparatus, adapted to be lent to a customer, for obtaining image data by operation of the customer;

image manipulating means for manipulating said image data, which has been obtained by said image obtaining apparatus, by a predetermined manipulation process <u>yielding resulting image data</u>; and

image data dispensing means for dispensing the resulting image data, ~~which is the image data as the result of said predetermined manipulation process by said image manipulation means,~~ to the customer for a consideration<u>,</u>

<u>said image data dispensing means including:</u>

<u>an image server for storing the resulting image data; and</u>

<u>a communication network communicably interconnecting said image server and a customer terminal, and</u>

<u>the resulting image data stored in said image server being dispensed to said customer terminal via said communication network.</u>

2-5.   (CANCELLED).

6.   (WITHDRAWN)   An image data dispensing system according to claim 1, wherein:

said image data dispensing means includes image writing means for writing the resulting image data, which is the image data as the result of said predetermined manipulation process by said image manipulating means, into a portable medium, and

said portable medium, into which the resulting image data is written by said image writing means, is purchased by the customer, so that the resulting image data written therein is dispensed to the customer.

7-13.   (CANCELLED).

14.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   An image data dispensing system according to claim ~~10~~1, wherein said image data dispensing means further includes access managing means for managing access attempts of the customer from said customer terminal to the resulting image data stored in said image server, such that the accessing is permitted for a limited period depending upon an amount of charge said customer has paid for the consideration.

15-17. (CANCELLED).

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   An image data dispensing system according to claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein said image data dispensing means further includes access managing means for managing access attempts of the customer from said customer terminal to the resulting image data stored in said image server, such that the accessing is permitted under condition that a predetermined amount of charge has been paid for the consideration.

19-21. (CANCELLED).

22.   (ORIGINAL)   An image data dispensing system according to claim 18, wherein said image data dispensing means further includes reference image producing means for producing a reference image from the resulting image data stored in said image server, said reference image being offered to the customer without consideration.

23-25. (CANCELLED).

26.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   An image data dispensing system according to claim ~~10~~ 1, further comprising:

  · consideration collection managing means for ~~managing the collection of~~ collecting a consideration to be paid for the resulting image data; and

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image deleting means for deleting the resulting image data stored in said image server upon recognition by said consideration collection managing means that the consideration for the image data has not yet been collected even after elapse of a predetermined time period.

27-29. (CANCELLED).

30.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 1, wherein said image manipulating means stores added information in a predetermined address of said image data.

31-33. (CANCELLED)

34.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 30, further comprising an image viewer for reading out said added data, which is stored by said image manipulating means, and showing said added data on its screen.

35-37. (CANCELLED).

38.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 34, wherein said added information is an advertisement relevant to where said image data has been obtained.

39-41. (CANCELLED).

42.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 38, wherein said image manipulating means stores said added information together with another piece of information that designates a display available period during which said image viewer is adapted to show said added information.

43-45. (CANCELLED).

46.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 38, wherein said image manipulating means, if any other image data has been previously stored

where the object resulting image data is to be stored, updates added information stored in such previous image data.

47-49. (CANCELLED).

50.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 30, wherein said added information is where said image data has been obtained.

51-53. (CANCELLED).

54.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 30, wherein said added information is when, or the date and time, said image data was obtained.

55-57. (CANCELLED).

58.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 30, wherein said added information is the customer's personal data relevant to said image data.

59-63. (CANCELLED).

64.   (WITHDRAWN) An image data dispensing system according to claim 1, wherein said image manipulating means performs image processing upon said image data.

65-69. (CANCELLED).

70.   (NEW) An image recording apparatus comprising:
an image reader reading the image data from an image forming apparatus;
an image manipulator processing the image data to generate processed image data; and
an image writer storing the processed image data in an image database which can be accessed by a customer terminal via a network.

71.   (NEW) A method to provide a customer with images obtained by an image forming apparatus, outside the image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

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reading out the images from the image forming apparatus;

applying a predetermined manipulation process to the read images to generate processed images;

storing the processed images in an image database connected to a customer terminal via a network; and

dispensing the processed images from the image database to the customer terminal via the network.

72.   (NEW) An image dispensing system capable to read images from an image data storing unit of an image forming apparatus, the image dispensing system comprising:

an image reading unit to read out images stored in the image forming apparatus;

an image processing unit to process the read images according to a predetermined processing procedure; and

an image output unit to transfer the processed image into an external image storing device, wherein the external image storing device sends the images to a customer terminal via a network.